



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

April 29, 2008

Board of Supervisors
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First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

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MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: *for* William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

**Congressional Hearings on Emergency Room Crisis and Lack of Hospital
Emergency Preparedness**

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which is chaired by Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA), will be holding hearings next week in Washington, D.C. on the current emergency room crisis and lack of hospital emergency surge capacity. Dr. Roger Lewis, who is a senior physician at the County's Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and has collaborated on several studies of disaster preparedness in Los Angeles County, will testify before the Committee as an expert witness on May 5, 2008. He was asked to testify on issues relating to hospital surge capacity and disaster preparedness. Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff have been asked to testify at a May 7, 2008 hearing. One of the main purposes of the hearings is to draw attention to the current lack of hospital emergency surge capacity and how it would be made worse if pending regulations which would reduce Medicaid payments to hospitals are implemented.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:GK
MAL:MT:hg

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist

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